

Program (RSVP), she recruited, trained, and assigned volunteers to designated sites. She also served as Family Service Advocate for the Wayne County Family Center, facilitating, and expediting adaption to independent living arrangements for residents and aided with placement and health care services. Ms. Everett spearheaded the “No Family Without Christmas” program, collecting donations for the homeless during the winter holiday season.

Prior to that work, Ms. Everett served in many other roles in the community, including as a representative on the Community Development Commission and as a Wayne County community liaison to prevent and assist homeowners facing mortgage foreclosures. Through her work with the Southeast Westland Homeowners Association (SWHA), Ms. Everett founded the SWHA Community Center, where for many years, she operated an after-school program for young people. She was an active member of the St. James United Methodist Church, where she served as chairperson of the Outreach Committee and on the Pastor Parish Relations Committee.

Please join me in recognizing the many contributions of Ms. Reasther Everett to Westland, Wayne County, and 13th District Strong, as we give honor to her memory.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JULIA
NESHEIWAT

HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and career of combat veteran and public servant Dr. Julia Nesheiwat, who has devoted her entire life in service to this country and by every metric, exemplifies duty, honor, and the American Dream.

Born to Ben and Hayat Nesheiwat, Jordanian immigrant parents who worked tirelessly to provide for her and her four siblings, Dr. Nesheiwat graduated from Stetson University. She then went on to earn her M.A. in security studies from Georgetown University, Washington D.C. and a Ph.D. from the Tokyo Institute of Technology in Japan. Dr. Nesheiwat is a lifelong member of the Council on Foreign Relations and served on the Governing Advisory Council for the World Economic Forum.

After the September 11 attacks, Dr. Nesheiwat was immediately deployed in the U.S. Army military intelligence corps. She served multiple tours in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq for which she was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Dr. Nesheiwat subsequently was selected to serve on the U.S. Presidential Commission on Intelligence Capabilities Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction, leading the North Korea and Iran policy steering committee.

She went on to help establish the newly formed office of the Director of National Intelligence as the Chief of Staff for policy and planning, where she managed the integration and collaboration of analysis and reporting with all intelligence agencies.

During her time at the Department of State, Dr. Nesheiwat served as the first Deputy As-

sistant Secretary for Energy where she built a new bureau that addressed the nexus of energy, climate, technology, development, international programs, and public-private partnerships. She then collaborated with the Department of Defense to create a new curriculum on energy security as a visiting professor at the Naval Post Graduate School.

Dr. Nesheiwat continued her call to service as the first U.S. Deputy Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs focused on the release of U.S. citizens legally detained or held hostage abroad. Dr. Nesheiwat’s diplomatic work was instrumental in the release of dozens of Americans illegally held overseas as well as her work with the families of those detained.

Returning to her home state of Florida, Dr. Nesheiwat was appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis to serve as Florida’s first Chief Resilience Officer, a cabinet-level position tasked with preparing Florida for the environmental, physical, and economic impacts of sea level rise.

In 2020, Dr. Nesheiwat once again answered the call to serve, this time in the White House as Deputy Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Resilience. At such a perilous time in our nation’s history, she brought her extensive expertise on national security and resilience to develop strategies to help protect America against the COVID pandemic, natural disasters, critical infrastructure protection, foreign election interference, civil unrest, counter-narcotics, and wildlife and trafficking crimes.

Dr. Nesheiwat was later appointed to serve a four-year term as a Commissioner on the U.S. Arctic Research Commission. The Commission is an independent federal agency that advises the President and Congress on domestic and international Arctic research. She is also a Distinguished Fellow with the Atlantic Council with the Global Energy Center.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the lifelong servant leadership of Dr. Julia Nesheiwat and her career spanning the Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden Administrations. She has brought great credit to her country and we thank her as she continues to serve the American people.

RECOGNIZING JOE EDMONSON AND
FAMILY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Mr. Joe Edmonson who has been named Mississippi’s Farmer of the Year by the Sunbelt Agriculture expo. I am proud to have him representing our state.

Joe has been a motivated and passionate farmer for his entire life. At the age of fifteen, he purchased his first forty acres of land. Both Joe and his wife Melissa grew up in farming families and have dedicated their lives to Topshaw farms. Melissa is a full partner in the farms and is an essential figure in the Vardaman Sweet Potato Festival. Their daughter, Brandi also works in the business side of the farm. Her husband, Shaun manages the packing warehouse line. Son Trent oversees planting and harvesting, and his wife

is a nurse who aids in minor medical incidents around the farm. Son Cody manages sweet potato planting and grain harvesting and his wife Lindsey works in the packing warehouse offices and manages H2A work.

The farm has endured multiple natural disasters that affected their crop and livestock. The Edmonson family has taken these hardships as opportunities to expand and built an impressive packing facility. They have taken into stride changes in agriculture technology and continue to evolve with the modern world. Joe and his family contribute to their surrounding community through the Boy Scouts, Vardaman FFA, Calhoun County 4-H and the state Farm Bureau.

Family is at the core of Mr. Edmonson’s farming career. Joe, Melissa, Brandi, Trent and Cody have been a pillar of the Vardaman community and have made incredible contributions to Calhoun County. I am grateful for their lifetime of service and commend him for his outstanding work in agriculture.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JOSIE
BACALLAO

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the tremendous career and meaningful work of Josie Bacallao, President & CEO of Hispanic Unity of Florida.

Founded 39 years ago as a haven for immigrants and refugees, Hispanic Unity of Florida has grown to serve diverse and multi-cultural working families from the United States as well as more than 25 other countries.

Under Ms. Bacallao’s leadership, the agency provides a range of wrap-around services to help more than 16,000 clients of all ages, from preschoolers to adults, successfully transition to a productive new life.

Hispanic Unity of Florida acts as South Florida’s “Ellis Island” for new immigrants arriving in South Florida. Often arriving with little more than the clothes on their backs, a few dollars in pocket change, with no job, language, skills or understanding of the life that awaits them on America’s shores—they still come with hopes and dreams.

And Josie works tirelessly to guarantee everyone is empowered to live their American Dream.

Her commitment to strengthening the physical and financial health and wellness of Florida’s families is extensive, impressive, and inspiring.

Josie Bacallao is a selfless, compassionate, and thoughtful citizen whose commitment to our community is exemplary, and I am proud to call her my dear friend. I wish her a hearty congratulations on her retirement and am grateful for her invaluable work to improve the lives of those in Florida’s 23rd Congressional District and beyond.